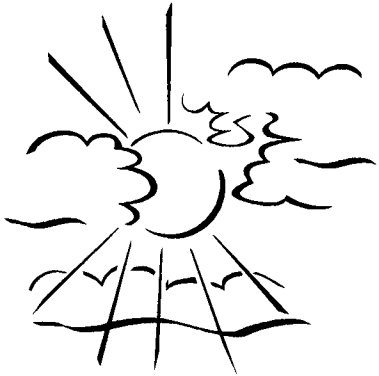


***Department  
of  
Human  
Services***

Prepared by the  
DHS Office of  
Communications  
(517) 373-7394



\*Important story at this spot

# **Articles in Today's Clips**

## **Wednesday, July 13, 2005**

(Be sure to maximize your screen to read your clips)

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*Gongwer*  
*Tuesday, July 12, 2005*

## **GROUP WORRIES MEDICAID COST-SHARING WILL HURT RECIPIENTS**

A proposal from the National Governors Association to set a standard on Medicaid recipients' out-of-pocket expenses could end up hurting medical care for the poor in the nation, according to the Washington, D.C.-based Center on Budget and Policy Priorities.

And an article released Tuesday by the Journal of Health Affairs looking at Oregon's experience with charging premiums and higher co-pays for Medicaid said the practice forced nearly half the recipients to give up the health coverage.

Both the Senate and House have passed Department of Community Health budgets for 2005-06 that call for most Medicaid recipients to pay a premium to receive coverage along with paying higher co-pays for various services.

Governor Jennifer Granholm played a major role in the NGA committee that issued its preliminary recommendation for changes to the federal Medicaid program last month. The organization is planning on discussing and voting at its meeting next week in Des Moines on the proposal as a formal recommendation to Congress and the President.

While speakers from the organization recognized that the states need to save money on Medicaid, they focused specifically on one part of the proposal: that out-of-pocket payments for medical care from Medicaid families match the 5 percent limit set by the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

Vicki Wachino of the center called the proposal "extremely troubling." The general Medicaid population is different from those using S-CHIP programs in that they tend to be poorer, and managing those costs is more difficult.

Setting requirements that families pay up to 5 percent of their total income will "effectively eliminate federal Medicaid coverage" for many families, she said.

And Kevin Larsen, a physician with the Hennepin County General Hospital in Minneapolis, said a study showed patients on Medicaid there have often been forced to give up getting their medications because of new co-pays instituted in Minnesota. In one case, a diabetic patient was forced to repeatedly go to a hospital emergency room for insulin because she could not afford to pay for insulin.

The Health Affairs article said a study done of Oregon recipients showed that nearly half those surveyed had been forced to drop the programs because they

could not afford the premiums which ranged from \$6 to \$20 a month. That tracked with state statistics on enrollments that showed the number of people in the Medicaid program dropping by nearly 50,000 – about half – since the premiums and co-pays were instituted in 2003.

The proposal the Legislature has considered calls for premiums for most Medicaid recipients averaging \$5 a month. The premiums could be increased if the recipients do not sign a pledge to engage in healthy behavior.

Sen. Tony Stamas (R-Midland), who chairs the Senate Community Health Appropriations Subcommittee, said he would look at the article and the comments, but that the state cannot continue to operate under the status quo.

The state does not want to see people off the system if they cannot afford it, Mr. Stamas said, but “there is a real argument that we want people invested in the situation.”

Liz Boyd, spokesperson to Ms. Granholm, said the administration’s goal is not to see people removed from the rolls, so some of the criticism and concern about the NGA proposal may be needless.

July 12, 2005

# **Senior Center offers Medicare assistance**

**FROM STAFF REPORTS**  
**Traverse City Eagle**

TRAVERSE CITY - The Traverse City Senior Center will offer enrollment assistance to low-income senior citizens who may begin receiving prescription drug coverage through Medicare Part D starting Jan. 1.

Appointments are being accepted from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. on July 20. To make an appointment, call the senior center at 922-4911. A list of all medications and a Medicare card will be required.

Guidelines define low income as a single person with a monthly income of \$1,197 or less and a married couple earning \$1,604 or less per month.

A volunteer trained through the Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program will meet with seniors to examine all assistance options and determine the best choice. The Medicare Medicaid Assistance Program is a government-supported, volunteer program.

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

## **Ex-day care operator gets 30 days in jail**

### **The former operator of a Brighton Township day care facility was sentenced Tuesday to 30 days in jail beginning July 19**

Last month, Heather Deaton, 28, plead guilty to two counts of fourth-degree child abuse and no contest to a third count of fourth-degree child abuse before Judge Marvin Frankel in 53rd District Court in Brighton.

Deaton was also fined \$1,370 and given two years on probation during which she must receive counseling.

Deaton is not allowed to work with children under 13 or to be in a position that allows contact with children. She is also not allowed to seek or obtain a license from any state to provide care for children.

Livingston County Prosecutor David Morse said six children between the ages of one and five were abused at Deaton's Kinder Cuddle Care day care center on Canterbury Lane off Old US-23. A mother hid a tape recorder in her daughter's backpack and recorded incidents of abuse, which led to the charges. State Police Trooper Terry Berdan, who investigated the incident, said Deaton instructed children to assault other children for not doing chores quickly enough.

Berdan added that requiring children to do chores is a violation of state day care rules.

From News staff reports

# Mother leaves baby in car

By Michael P. McConnell

Daily Tribune Staff Writer

PUBLISHED: July 12, 2005

FERNDALE — A Detroit woman who police say left her infant son in the car while she shopped at a downtown store faces investigation by Oakland County Children's Protective Services.

A passerby noticed the 5-month-old baby inside the car about 6:45 p.m. Saturday in a public parking lot at Troy and Allen streets, police said.

"It was 83 degrees outside," said Ferndale Lt. Norm Raymond. "The back windows were rolled down several inches, but even under those circumstances, the interior of a car can easily reach and exceed 100 degrees."

Officers at the scene found the infant strapped into an infant car seat.

"The child was crying and perspiring and appeared agitated," Raymond said. "A full sun was beating down on the car."

The mother, 31, arrived with a bag of groceries from a local health food store a few minutes after officers arrived, he added.

"She said she was shopping for 15 or 20 minutes," Raymond said.

The infant did not require any medical attention and was allowed to leave the scene with his mother, police said.

However, police will decide whether to press charges against the mother after Children's Protective Services finishes its investigation.

Raymond said the child faced real danger from both the heat and a possible abduction when his mother left him alone in her gray 2000 Ford Focus.

"The mother showed very poor judgment," he said.

Contact Michael P. McConnell at [mike.mcconnell@dailytribune.com](mailto:mike.mcconnell@dailytribune.com) or at 248-591-2571.

Ann Arbor News

Letters to the editor

July 13, 2005

## **Rotary food drive raised enough for 2,859 meals**

The Rotary Club of Ann Arbor would like to thank the community and the 35 area businesses and organizations who joined forces to help fight hunger locally during the Rotate Your Food summer canned food drive held June 19-25. The Rotary Club partnered with our local food rescue/food bank program, Food Gatherers, to collect much-needed food to be distributed to nonprofit programs throughout Washtenaw County that are on the front line of battling hunger every day in our community. More than two tons of food were collected, which translates into 2,859 meals.

The Rotary Club of Ann Arbor was very pleased with the outpouring of generosity from the community as it continues to pursue its motto of "Service above Self," reaching out to our neighbors in need during the summer months when food drives are fewer and the need to help put food on the table is just as strong as in the cold winter months. Thank you to all who contributed time, space and food to make the drive a success for those who need it most.

Norman G. Herbert, Ann Arbor

# **Toddlers need school prep**

## **Campaign focuses on the earliest years**

*Detroit Free Press*

*July 12, 2005*

On Monday, a group of Michigan agencies launched Born Learning -- a statewide campaign to raise awareness of the importance of early childhood development.

Goals include urging parents to understand the importance of the early years in preparing for school and providing parents with resources to help them prepare kids.

"Those children who start behind, stay behind," said Joan Firestone, early childhood consultant for Oakland Schools, Oakland County's intermediate school district.

The agencies include the Michigan Association of United Ways, Michigan Ready to Succeed Partnership and Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators.

Born Learning is part of a national campaign that includes TV, radio, billboard and newspaper ads. A Web site, [www.bornlearning.org](http://www.bornlearning.org), has been created.

Parents can be connected to an intermediate school district in their area by calling 888-232-4376.

By Lori Higgins



# A Child Is Waiting

Steven, 11, is quiet and loves learning

*Tuesday, July 12, 2005*

*By Rosemary Dorr / Special to The Detroit News*

Not many 11-year-olds would cheerfully give up play time at a picnic to have their picture taken. Steven did. Although he's "been let down a lot," he still has hope in people.

Quiet and unassuming, Steven has a sense of humor and loves to learn. "I like trying out (new) things," says the sixth-grader-to-be who did well in special education classes for emotionally impaired students. "Learning in school is important."

Says Steven, "I love pets. My favorite sport is football. I like to play outside, watch TV movies and play video games. I don't like getting into trouble."

"Steven is very good at learning from mistakes and doesn't make them again," notes his therapist at the residence where Steven has lived four months. "He's a favorite here," she says. "He's insightful and intelligent, a little sensitive with a laid-back personality. He's helpful, sharing, has a good sense of right and wrong and is loyal to those he cares about. He does what's expected of him."

His adoption worker adds, "Steven is a really cute kid. He just needs somebody to be by his side as he grows up -- a family that will commit to him and stick up for him."

Steven hasn't lost hope of getting that family. If you might consider adoption, please talk with Deanna Witkovsky at Lutheran Adoption Service, (248) 423-2770, ext. 1135.

**Last column's child:** James, 11, a polite and friendly boy, responds to attention. For information, call Kelli Crawford at Orchards Children's Services, (248) 593-2196.

*A child is waiting appears Tuesdays in Features.*

[E01-244243.htm](#)Previous Story [E01-244057.htm](#)Next Story

# Children's obesity program could be implemented statewide

Tuesday, July 12, 2005

By Nate Reens  
The Grand Rapids Press

GRAND RAPIDS -- A YMCA program that combats obesity among black girls and Hispanic boys may be replicated statewide if officials show success in improving the health and lifestyle of children.

The state Monday announced the YMCA of Greater Grand Rapids was among 12 agencies to receive grants to address health disparities among ethnic populations.

The center's bid was to expand its "Healthy U" program, which serves 1,000 children, to an additional 600 children between ages 6 and 11.

The agency will receive \$144,000 over the next two years to bring the physical fitness, wellness and nutrition-based programming to area children at no cost, YMCA spokesman Gary Wade said.

"Our goal is to help kids realize that there are alternatives to video and computer games and get them more active while also showing them the value of good nutrition," Wade said.

"As a society, we make it so easy to eat bad food, but if we show them how to live a more healthy lifestyle, it can go a long way."

Wade said the state Department of Community Health planned to use the program as a model and spread the initiative to other cities.

"They really want to create something that will work in different communities, and I think we've got that," he said.

The Wyoming and Battle Creek health offices of the Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Indians also received state funding and will seek to prevent diabetes among tribal members. Officials with the tribe's Wyoming office could not be reached for comment.

The state doled out \$1.1 million to programs focusing on reducing hypertension, cancer, asthma and infant mortality, among other illnesses that frequently affect minorities.

The target health areas were identified in a 2004 study showing disparities among ethnic populations.

Janet Olszewski, director of the Community Health Department, said the state partnering with local and regional agencies often can help improve the health of residents statewide.

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## **MICHIGAN**

**Informed choices...** Michigan's long-term care reform efforts got a boost from a new report recommending a single administration to handle all long-term care functions and a consumer-dominated commission to oversee it.

The recommendations, issued in a final report from Democratic Gov. Jennifer Granholm's Medicaid Long Term Care Task Force, also call for a statewide network of local agencies that would offer one-stop shopping for information and evaluation of long-term care alternatives. AARP Michigan has been involved in reforming the state's

long-term care system and was represented on the task force.

Advocates hope to build public support for legislation that would make the recommendations a reality. Go to [www.aarp.org/mi](http://www.aarp.org/mi) to find out more.

# **States agree on tax pact**

## **Catalog, online purchases targeted**

*July 13, 2005*

*ASSOCIATED PRESS*

*Detroit Free Press*

LANSING -- Michigan and 17 other states have agreed to implement guidelines this fall to help them better collect sales and use tax on Internet and catalog purchases.

The Streamlined Sales and Use Tax Agreement takes effect Oct. 1.

It simplifies the tax code among the participating states to make it more appealing for retailers to collect state taxes because it will reduce their paperwork.

For example, states in the agreement will have the same definition for food and other goods so they could be taxed more easily.

Current law doesn't require Internet and direct mail companies to collect sales taxes on transactions that occur in states where they don't have a physical presence. But several companies are expected to start collecting and remitting the taxes under the agreement.

"With so-called e-commerce continuing to grow, it is imperative that we take the steps necessary to stop the erosion of Michigan tax revenues," state Treasurer Jay Rising said.

Michigan loses \$250 million per year in sales and use taxes from Internet transactions, says the nonpartisan Senate Fiscal Agency. The state could receive between \$26 million and \$65 million in the first year of the legislation, according to one analysis by the House Republican Policy Office.

The Streamlined Sales Tax and Use Agreement was first approved in November 2002. State legislatures then began bringing their tax laws into compliance. Gov. Jennifer Granholm signed Michigan's legislation last year.

## **IN A MINUTE**

*Detroit Free Press*  
*July 13, 2005*

### **HEALTH CARE**

## **Wayne County sets meeting on low-cost plans**

Wayne County Health Choice will host a community outreach event from 2:30 p.m. to 3:15 p.m. Thursday at the Martin Luther King Health Center, 611 Martin Luther King Blvd., Detroit.

The event will focus on two low-cost health and dental plans available to county residents. For more information, call Karen Keck-Martin at 313-961-0084.

By Jenni Lewis

Wednesday, July 13, 2005

## Don't cheat college students out of needed tuition aid

### Lawmakers should encourage higher education

The Detroit News

Lawmakers go down the wrong path when they propose slashing aid for needy students -- a questionable idea when state universities are raising tuition.

Soaring costs and less aid will shut out many students from higher education. And that's ironic, given the state's avowed goal of creating a "culture of education" to help jumpstart Michigan's lagging economy.

One issue is \$15 million for work-study jobs and grants. Cutting the programs would help balance Michigan's 2006 budget. Another idea would cut some \$60 million in state tuition grants to students attending private colleges.

Students would also lose under a proposal to withhold paying their Michigan Merit Scholarships until they complete two years of college. Such a plan would deter cash-strapped students from entering college in the first place. And it trashes the idea of linking a merit scholarship to academic achievement, another area in which Michigan lags.

A lot of the debate falls along partisan lines as GOP and Democratic lawmakers jockey to get their version of the overall 2006 budget passed.

But enough is enough. No plan that deters students from enrolling in college is acceptable, given Michigan's brain drain and 7.1 percent unemployment rate.

"Anyone who believes that Michigan residents can look forward to a good life with only a high school diploma could not be more wrong," notes the report from a commission headed last year by Lt. Gov. John Cherry. That report drew a lot of applause for documenting Michigan's difficulty in tying higher education achievement to economic growth.

Then and now, everybody agrees that education should be Priority One. So it is puzzling why slapping down college students is seriously considered as a viable budget-cutting idea.

True, lawmakers need to balance the 2006 budget. But if education is key to economic recovery, then shortchanging students, especially needy students, smacks of callous partisan politics.

A comprehensive approach is needed, including honest looks at curbing the rising cost of higher education. A good place to start would for universities to examine professors' contracts and determine the percentage of revenue earmarked for actual teaching.

Putting more state money into student aid is of little value if tuition soars unchecked.

College aid at risk

The Michigan House of Representatives has proposed eliminating \$15 million in aid programs to the state's neediest students:

- **Michigan Work Study:** \$7 million. Provides part-time jobs to help needy undergraduate students. The jobs usually are on campus, and employers work to accommodate the student's schedule. Many colleges also have agreements with off-campus employers, like nonprofit organizations. Award amounts vary.

- **Part-time Independent Student Program:** \$3 million. Provides need-based grants of up to \$600 a year to part-time public university students.

- **Michigan Education Opportunity Grants:** \$2 million. Assists needy undergraduates who are enrolled at least half-time at community colleges or public universities.

- **King-Chavez-Park program:** \$3 million. An outreach program that helps minority students prepare for college.

*Source: Michigan House Fiscal Agency  
Related reports*

In short, lawmakers need to follow up on the higher education alarms by the Cherry Commission and others last year. And until they figure it out, don't cheat students out of tuition assistance.

# DNA test refutes a kinship claim

## Lawsuits over slaying are in question

*July 13, 2005*

**BY BEN SCHMITT**

**FREE PRESS STAFF WRITER**

Richard Miller has said since April that it was his brother who was gunned down by a state trooper outside a Detroit bar. DNA test results released Tuesday say otherwise: They say Miller likely isn't related to the man.

Miller filed a petition in Wayne County Probate Court to represent Williams' estate, and then filed a gross negligence lawsuit against the trooper in Wayne County Circuit Court.

The DNA results immediately throw both legal actions into question.

Test results by Orchid GeneScreen in Dayton, Ohio, show a 99.99% probability that Eric Williams, a 40-year-old homeless man known on the streets as Magoo who was shot by Trooper Jay Morningstar on April 14, had a different father than Miller.

Morningstar is charged with second-degree murder in Williams' death. The trooper shot Williams -- who was unarmed and walking toward his police car -- once in the chest during a disturbance call in front of the Detroit Bar at Beaubien and Fort Street. Morningstar said Williams approached him aggressively and his hands could not be seen.

Contacted Tuesday, Miller said he hadn't seen the results of the DNA testing, which, according to the lawyer for Williams' siblings, was requested by Miller's own lawyers.

"I don't have anything to say," said Miller, who is represented by lawyer Geoffrey Fieger's Southfield law firm.

After Miller filed to take control of Williams' estate, eight of Williams' siblings said they had never met Miller, 34, of Detroit. They hired lawyers to contest the probate court case.

On Tuesday, the siblings said they hoped Miller would drop his claims. Eric Williams and the eight surviving siblings are all children of the late Grace Alice Williams, they say.

"We're delighted," Georgetta Williams, 34, a sister of Eric Williams, said of the DNA results. "We don't know Richard Miller, and we want nothing to do with Geoffrey Fieger."

Lawyer Arnold Reed, who represents Georgetta Williams and her siblings, put it more bluntly. "He lost; we've won," Reed said, referring to Miller. "And that's all that needs to be said about that money-grubbing opportunist."

"He needs to step aside and let the real family members take over from here," he said. "This was a scheme."

Reed said he is unsure why Fieger's office requested the DNA test.



Fieger and attorney Paul Broschay, who also represents Miller, did not return phone calls Tuesday.

Miller claimed that Eric Williams came to live with him and his father in their Detroit home about 30 years ago and that Eric popped in and out of their lives after that.

Richard Miller said the late Nicholas Miller was his and Eric Williams' father. Georgetta Williams claims to have a birth certificate listing the late Charles Cortez as Eric Williams' father.

"There's no match," Georgetta Williams said. "I don't see that Richard Miller and Fieger have any choice but to give up."

Georgetta Williams said she and her family want to concentrate on the criminal case.

Two weeks ago, a district court judge sent Morningstar's case to Wayne County Circuit Court for a trial, set to begin Sept. 1.

*Contact BEN SCHMITT at 313-223-4296 or [schmitt@freepress.com](mailto:schmitt@freepress.com).*

# **PRESENTED TO THE GOVERNOR**

**By the Senate:****July 12:**

- SB 136** FALSE CREDENTIALS (George) Prohibits the issuance or use of false academic degrees or credentials.
- SB 189** EPHEDRINE SALES (Birkholz) Requires over-the-counter products containing pseudoephedrine or ephedrine to be sold from behind counter and requires photo identification.
- SB 211** PROHIBITED SPECIES (Birkholz) Identifies prohibited insect and aquatic plant species.
- SB 212** PROHIBITED SPECIES (Van Woerkom) Revises the prohibition on "release" of certain fish species to cover "introduction" of certain insect and aquatic plant species.
- SB 213** GENETICALLY ENGINEERED SPECIES (Stamas) Recognizes genetically engineered aquatic plants in natural resources and environmental protection act and prohibits introduction of genetically engineered aquatic plants or nonnative aquatic plants.
- SB 215** NONNATIVE SPECIES PENALTIES (Gilbert) Requires the nonnative species requirements and penalties to be posted on the department of natural resources website.
- SB 257** RESORT LIQUOR LICENSES (Hammerstrom) Creates resort liquor licenses for the calendar years 2005 and 2006.
- SB 279** SCHOOL AID EXECUTIVE BUDGET (Switalski) Fiscal year 2005-2006 executive budget for school aid.
- SB 302** DISABILITY OWNED BUSINESSES (Bernero) Modifies the reporting requirements of certain departments for contracts with businesses owned by persons with disabilities.
- SB 303** VETERAN DISABILITY OWNED BUSINESSES (Toy) Creates a state procurement program for small businesses owned by veterans with service-related disabilities.
- SB 306** PROPERTY CONVEYANCE (Birkholz) Transfers state-owned property to Eaton County.
- SB 352** MAIL ORDER PHARMACEUTICALS (Hardiman) Eliminates prohibition against and provides for mail order pharmaceuticals and centralized prescription processing.
- SB 406** SCHOOL BOND ACT (Clark-Coleman) Creates the school bond qualification, approval, and loan act.
- SB 407** JOBS TODAY SHARED CREDIT AMENDMENTS (Switalski) Amends the shared credit rating act to conform with jobs today school bond qualification, approval, and loan act.
- SB 408** SCHOOL BOND LOAN FUND (Clarke) Revises the school bond loan fund program.

- SB 410** SCHOOL BOND SCHOOL AID AMENDMENTS (Leland) Amends the state school aid act to conform with school bond qualification, approval, and loan act.
- SB 411** SCHOOL BOND CRIME (Cherry) Enacts sentencing guidelines for certain crimes relating to school bonds.
- SB 446** **MEDICAID QUALITY ASSESSMENT TAX (Jacobs) Implements a quality assurance assessment tax on Medicaid managed care organizations.**
- SB 447** **PREPAID HEALTH PLANS (Jacobs) Designates specialty prepaid health plans as Medicaid managed care organizations.**
- SB 482** BROWNFIELD DEVELOPMENT FINANCING (Allen) Allows the payment of brownfield redevelopment authority financing costs under certain circumstances.
- SB 507** INVASIVE AQUATIC PLANT CRIME (Birkholz) Provides for sentencing guidelines for crimes of introducing, possessing, or importing certain aquatic plants.
- SB 522** PUBLIC UTILITY HIGHWAY USE (McManus) Provides for the use of highways by public utilities under certain conditions
- SB 525** VENTURE INVESTMENT CORPORATION (Bishop) Allows an early stage venture investment corporation to have multiple fund managers and provide other amendments.

**By the House:**

**July 6:**

- HB 4322** EPHEDRINE PRODUCTS (Jones) Requires certain over-the-counter products containing pseudoephedrine or ephedrine to be maintained behind the counter and requires photo identification for the sale of the products.
- HB 4405** MAIL-ORDER PHARMACIES (Whitmer) Eliminates the prohibitions against mail-order pharmacies.
- HB 4434** MAIL ORDER PHARMACEUTICALS (Hummel) Eliminates prohibition against mail order pharmaceuticals and provides for centralized prescription processing.
- HB 4607** YEAR-ROUND SCHOOL SIGNS (Stakoe) Allows posting of year-round school signs along highways.
- HB 4714** NONNATIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COUNCIL (Pavlov) Establishes a nonnative species advisory council.
- HB 4715** NONNATIVE SPECIES ADVISORY COUNCIL (Hansen) Specifies duties of the nonnative species advisory council.
- HB 4716** NONNATIVE SPECIES PENALTIES (Farhat) Clarifies state of mind required as an element of nonnative species penalty violation.
- HB 4821** PHARMACISTS "REVIEW ENTITY" (Mortimer) Expands the definition of "review entity" to include an organization established by a state association of pharmacists.

**July 7:**

- HB 4275** CANVASSER PROCEDURES (Vander Veen) Clarifies state board of canvassers procedures.

**HB 4826 CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION BOARD (Baxter) Increases the number of public members on the child abuse and neglect prevention board.**

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REPORT NO. 133 VOLUME 44 TUESDAY, JULY 12, 2005